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# Utah State Legislature

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**Senate** • Utah State Capitol Complex • 320 State Capitol

PO Box 145115 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5115  
(801) 538-1035 • fax (801) 538-1414

**House of Representatives** • Utah State Capitol Complex • 350 State Capitol

PO Box 145030 • Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5030  
(801) 538-1029 • fax (801) 538-1908

November 25, 2009

Senator Lyle W. Hillyard, Chair, Executive Appropriations Committee

Representative Ron Bigelow, Chair, Executive Appropriations Committee

Members of the Executive Appropriations Committee

Senator Allen M. Christensen, Chair, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

Representative John Dougall, Chair, Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

Members of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee

## **RE: Budget support for Department of Human Services related-party investigations**

Mr. Chairmen and Committee members,

At its October 30, 2009 meeting, the Administrative Rules Review Committee voted to recommend that the Legislature not reauthorize R495-888, a Department of Human Services administrative rule which governs investigations of allegations of misconduct by Department of Human Services service providers and employees. On November 17 the Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel reviewed the purposes of the rule and options for responding to its repeal. After careful consideration, the Panel voted to:

- (1) direct the Panel's chairs to develop legislation to address issues relating to the repeal of the rule; and
- (2) recommend that the Legislature fund the legislation.

Accordingly, we recommend that the Executive Appropriations Committee, the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee, and the full Legislature support whatever funding may be necessary to enact legislation that will ensure that investigations of employees and contract providers serving Department of Human Services clients are carried out by an entity with the independence and expertise necessary to conduct the investigations in an unbiased, consistent, and competent manner.

Sincerely,

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Senator Allen M. Christensen  
Senate Chair  
Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel

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Representative Merlynn T. Newbold  
House Chair  
Child Welfare Legislative Oversight Panel